

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the drawings do not have a figure representing the tripod in a collapsed/closed state. However, the tripod of the invention does not collapse. It is a rigid structure. The disclosure does not state that the tripod is collapsible nor do the claims call for this feature. Accordingly, no new drawing is necessary and the Examiner's objection should be withdrawn. The tripod of the invention could be collapsible without departing from the invention. By removing the bolts coupling the stabilizer links to the leg assemblies, the tripod could collapse but that feature has not been claimed herein.

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Claim 13 has now been amended to provide the proper structure for connecting the first ends of the rods of each leg assembly. As noted in the drawings, particularly Fig. 8, there are three cylinders 70a, 70b and 70c, which receive the first ends of the leg assemblies.

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

Claims 16-18 are cancelled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected species.

The Examiner objected to claim 9. Claim 9 has now been rewritten in independent form as claim 19 but now provides that the stabilizer member adjustably acts through the respective feet of the leg assemblies.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 10-13 were rejected as unpatentable over a combination of references including Weber, Dalton and Apple. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the triangular structure of the leg assemblies and the support link assemblies.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to provide that the stabilizer need not necessarily act through the caster assembly. Its proximity to the caster assembly, *i.e.*, at or near the foot, means that it will be adjacent to the caster assemblies.

Claim 1 calls for three leg assemblies forming triangular structures coupled to a platform base and having three caster assemblies at distal ends. Further, the claim calls for three support link assemblies forming triangular structures that extend substantially vertically downward to a central point and three sets of stabilizer links coupled from the central point to respective ones of the leg assemblies. Caster assemblies are provided at respective ends of the leg assemblies and each caster has a stabilizer member acting adjacent to the caster assembly so as to bear selectively against the ground. This combination is not found in the prior art. Dalton discloses a tripod having a single vertical support rod and three link rods coupled to legs that, in turn, are coupled to a support platform. Dalton lacks caster assemblies, triangular support and link assemblies. Dalton further lacks the structure of claim 3 which calls for each of the support link assemblies to comprise a pair of members coupled to the base a predetermined distance apart but coupled together at the central point. Apple has a caster assembly but Apple is a washing machine, not a tripod. The only other tripod patent is Weber, which lacks the support link assembly structure of claims 1 and 3 and further lacks the leg assembly structure of claim 2. Claim 2 calls for each of the leg assemblies to include a pair of rods having first ends coupled to a predetermined distance apart and having distal ends coupled to a foot. Nothing in Apple suggests utilization of the caster wheels for any other purpose other than to permit movement of the heavy structure of the washing machine disclosed therein. Neither Weber nor Dalton suggests that wheels or caster assemblies would be useful in a tripod. In fact, both Weber and Dalton are collapsible tripods implying that they are moved from place to place in a collapsed state and then set up. By contrast, the preferred embodiment disclosed in the specification is non-collapsible and the wheels are for ease of movement of heavy objects supported by the platform prior to setting the stabilizers.

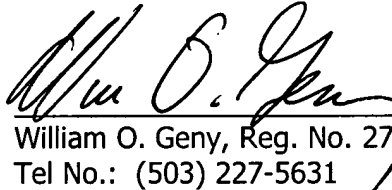
Claim 4 calls for each three leg assemblies, three caster assemblies and three stabilizer members. As noted above, neither Weber nor Dalton includes caster assemblies that have wheels. The notion of wheels is incompatible with the structure of Weber, which includes

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prongs 58 for gripping or penetrating the ground. Dalton includes a similar structure that has a spur and a friction pad member.

The claims as amended define patentable subject matter and an early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

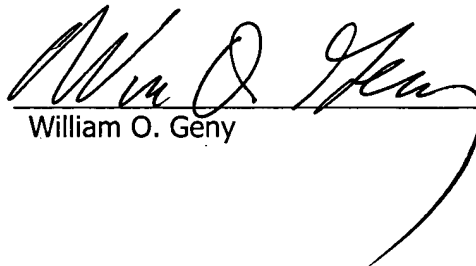


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Dated: January 12, 2005



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